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From
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
To

June 17, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSAGE

Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2450 N Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Lyman S. Kirkpatrick
Assistant Director for Special Operations

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am attaching hereto
communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

A. B. H. G. P. 12
J. H. H.
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RESEARCH INFORMATION - CONTINUING

WINTER 2002

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject's former wife, LILLIE FARMER, nee.,
born [redacted] [redacted] 1911/52, was born
into a farming family since 1941 and
is now family and all "communists", but
was not considered such previously. Subject
in LEBIA made many enemies who tried to
blacken reputation by accusing him of
communist sympathies. Lillie charged
against FIDELIO FARMER are untrue.

SECRET

DETAILS Mr. EARL SPENCER, superintendent at 100 West
10th Street, New York City, advised that JAMES
J. SPENCER, JR., had moved from this address
in October of 1951 leaving no forwarding address.

Mr. STEPHEN VITELLANO, real estate broker, 100 East High Street, who had rented the premises at 100 East High Street to Mrs. FOMANIK, advised that it was his impression she had moved to the Beacon Arts Apartment on East High Street. Inquiry at the Beacon Arts Apartment indicated, however, that Mrs. FOMANIK had never resided there.

On May 9, 1952 Mrs. ANSELIA LAJIA, apartment 204, 145 West 2nd Avenue, a Latvian displaced person and who is known to be a sister of Mrs. POVILINS, furnished the latter's

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IN CHARGE

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COMPASSION OF THE ANGELS

- Bureau (105-10016)
- Washington Field (105-422)
- Detroit (44-1960) (Info)
- New York (100-57161)

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current address as 52 West 50th Street, apartment 41. In addition Mrs. LAPINA furnished a residence telephone number for Mrs. FORMANIS as Murray Hill 8-8171 and a business telephone number of Circle 4-7100.

On May 10, 1952 Mrs. FORMANIS was interviewed at her residence 52 West 50th Street by the writer and SA DONALD P. PAUL. Mrs. FORMANIS advised that she is currently using the name Miss MAIDA FARNELL and she will be referred to by that name throughout the remainder of this report.

Miss FARNELL advised that she was born in Latvia on February 20, 1921. She and VIKTOR FORMANIS were married on July 18, 1941 and in February of 1947 they entered the United States as displaced persons from Latvia. They immediately proceeded to Detroit, Michigan to live with Miss FARNELL's relatives, Mr. and Mrs. CHRISTIAN JACOBSON. Miss FARNELL advised that in January, 1950 she and her husband separated and she came to New York to live with a friend from Latvia, a Miss RUTH JOHNSON.

Miss FARNELL stated that she is presently employed as a bookkeeper at the 12th Street Branch of the Chase National Bank. She stated that in March of 1952 she filed her first application for American citizenship and she expressed great concern that allegations against her husband might affect her citizenship application.

Concerning her knowledge of her husband's activities and the allegations against him, Miss FARNELL advised as follows:

She stated that she had known of the FORMANIS family in Latvia for several years prior to 1940, the year of the Russian occupation of her country. During that period the FORMANIS family appeared extremely well off financially to Miss FARNELL in that they owned several automobiles, had household servants and lived quite graciously. The subject's mother was a practicing physician in Latvia and his father was a high city official in Riga, a post which he continued to hold during the Russian occupation. According to Miss FARNELL, the subject was a sports reporter for a Latvian newspaper prior to the Russian occupation.

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According to Miss FARNELL, the fortune of the FORMANIS family suffered no great changes under the Soviet occupation other than the loss of their independence. She was aware that under the Russians, FORMANIS worked as a reporter for the Communist dominated and controlled newspaper "Glas" (Latvian word meaning "light"). Miss FARNELL pointed out that FORMANIS worked for this paper for only five or six months and he had ceased his association with it by the time her personal friendship with him had developed in late 1940. Miss FARNELL was of the opinion that FORMANIS had obtained his position with "Glas" because of the high political connection of his father.

In connection with the foregoing Miss FARNELL described the entire FORMANIS family as "opportunists". She stated that they would take the necessary steps to protect their own personal and financial welfare even if this required some collaboration with the Communists. However, Miss FARNELL does not feel that any member of the FORMANIS family actually was a Communist.

According to Miss FARNELL's recollection, FORMANIS, while attending the University of Riga, had been a member of a student fraternity known as "Latvian", which she described as a non-Communist group maintaining extremely high standards of discipline. Miss FARNELL recalled that FORMANIS was expelled from this fraternity during 1939 and she believed his expulsion was because of disregard of the fraternity's disciplinary code and not because of Communist sympathies as alleged by other sources.

Miss FARNELL advised that her social friendship with the subject developed late in 1940 subsequent to the aforementioned expulsion from the fraternity but during a period when both she and FORMANIS were attending the University of Riga studying law. At that time she recalled that FORMANIS was employed in a bakery owned by a family friend.

In 1941, according to Miss FARNELL, the Soviets were driven out of Latvia and the country was occupied by the Germans. She recalled that FORMANIS appeared extremely happy to have the Soviets driven out by the Nazis. However, she stated that shortly after the Germans took over the country FORMANIS was arrested by the Gestapo. He was held by the German Security Police for approximately three weeks in a prison in Riga.

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which was later confirmed by the Gestapo concerning his Communist connections.

Miss PARRELL stated that FURBER was arrested because of his connections with the KKK and because of other allegations of Communist activities. The exact nature of which was unknown to her. She stated that FURBER was accused of having aided the operations of leaders of several Latvian Army officers. She stated that she does not believe any of these allegations were true and she is of the opinion that they were made against FURBER by some of the army leaders he had made at the University of High among the student organizations. In this connection, Miss PARRELL pointed out that FURBER has always had an outgoing personality and has made very few friends. She did recall, however, that in student organizations at the University FURBER always was unambiguously anti-Communist and she, therefore, believes the charges against him are untrue.

While the subject was held by the Gestapo, Miss PARRELL moved from Lige to a country home of relatives. She stated that she did not again see FURBER for several months after his release by the Gestapo. Miss PARRELL stated that FURBER never mentioned anything to her about working for the German authorities and she does not believe he ever did this.

She stated that both prior to and after her marriage to FURBER they were in two different displaced persons camps together. However, she does not recall having attended any parties in these displaced persons camps where the subject could have made the statements attributed to him. She was certain that no party was held for them prior to their departure for the United States.

Miss PARRELL stated that her marriage with FURBER split up entirely because of personal reasons and had nothing to do with his political past. She stated that her divorce became final in December, 1951. She was aware of FURBER's remarriage, but advised that she knows nothing of his present wife other than the fact that she also is a Latvian displaced person. Miss PARRELL stated that she has had no personal contact with the subject for about a year, although she did have a telephone conversation with him in December of 1951 concerning

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On the divorce proceedings, Miss FARNELL stated that neither she nor her husband have any friends in New York City.

When questioned concerning their relationship with ARTHUR BACATAIS she stated that he is a Latvian who is a good friend of her sister, a Mrs. BACATAIS of Detroit, Michigan. She recalled that BACATAIS was a merchant sailor for several years and that he was in New York City when she and her husband arrived in the United States in February of 1947. She stated that BACATAIS met them at the ship and that they stayed with him for a day or two before leaving for Detroit. She advised that since she has been in New York City she has visited BACATAIS and his wife CATHERINE on one occasion but has not seen them for over a year. Miss FARNELL recalled that BACATAIS has told her that he is having difficulty obtaining his American citizenship because of an allegation of Communism against him. She said that BACATAIS claims that some years ago while in New York he was attempting to obtain a berth on a merchant ship and he had joined a labor union for a short while. He told her that he had no idea that this union was connected with Communism and that he definitely is not a Communist.

Miss FARNELL stated that if in the future she is in a position to be of assistance in any matter relating to Latvians in the United States she would be most willing to cooperate.

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